

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 9, 23, and 24 are pending in this case. Claims 8 and 23 are amended and Claims 1-7, 10-22, and 25-31 are canceled by the present amendment. Amended Claims 8 and 23 are supported by the original disclosure and, thus, add no new subject matter.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-18, 20, 21, and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sugaya et. al. (US Pub. No. 2004/0043780, herein "Sugaya"). Claims 4, 7, 19, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugaya in view of Tsutsumi et. al. (US Pub. No. 2004/0023641). Claims 8, 9, 23, and 24 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

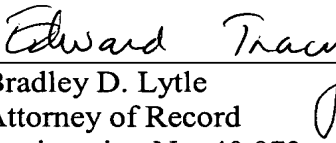
First, Claims 1-7, 10-22, and 25-31 are canceled. Thus, the rejection of those claims is believed to be moot.

Second, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter for Claims 8, 9, 23, and 24. Claims 8 and 23 have been amended to recite this subject matter in an independent form.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Edward W. Tracy, Jr.
Registration No. 47,998